

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 211520Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 114

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GR BU RO YO AL TU

SUBJ: MFA OFFICIALS' VIEWS ON UPCOMING BALKAN DEPUTY
MINISTERS MEETING

REF ATHENS 6111

1. CARRYING THROUGH WITH HIS PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING
OF BALKAN STATES (REFTEL), THE PRESS REPORTS THAT
PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HAS NOW DISPATCHED LETTERS
TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF BULGARIA, YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA,
TURKEY AND ALBANIA, INVITING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN
SUCH A MEETING IN ATHENS AT THE LEVEL OF UNDER SECRETARY
FOR COORDINATION AND PLANNING. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS,
THE OBJECT OF THE MEETING WILL BE TO DETERMINE THE
SECTORS - SUCH AS FINANCE, COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY,
CULTURAL EXCHANGES, ETC. - MOST SUITABLE FOR IMMEDIATE
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INTER-BALKAN COOPERATION.

2. AN MFA OFFICIAL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BALKAN AREA HAS CONFIRMED TO AN EMBOFF THAT THE PRESS STORIES ARE CORRECT. HE ADDED THAT WHILE THE DATE STILL WAS UNDETERMINED, ALL THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE MEETING EXCEPT FOR ALBANIA AND TURKEY. ALBANIA WAS TROUBLED AT THE IDEA OF AN INTER-BALKAN INITIATIVE, HE EXPLAINED, BECAUSE IT WISHED TO MAINTAIN AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY AND FEARED THE FORMATION OF A BALKAN BLOC WOULD INFRINGE ON IT. THE CURRENT POOR STATUS OF GREEK-TURKISH BILATERAL RELATIONS MIGHT CREATE A PROBLEM FOR TURKEY'S PARTICIPATION, HE ADDED. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID THAT GREECE HOPED FOR A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM ALBANIA AND TURKEY, AND THAT THE MEETING COULD COME OFF IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH ALL THE BALKAN NATIONS REPRESENTED. KUBISCH

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